

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00162 151537Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1967

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0162

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IT
SUBJECT: CARDINAL BENELLI SPEAKS OUT AGAINST MARXISM.

1. IN ITS MARCH 14 EDITION FLORENCE NEWSPAPER LA NAZIONE CARRIES PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ARTICLE REGARDING A SPEECH MADE BY CARDINAL BENELLI, ARCHBISHOP OF FLORENCE, AT HIS FIRST MEETING WITH THE FLORENCE MEMBERS OF THE "COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE" MOVEMENT. IN HIS SPEECH, CARDINAL BENELLI SAID THAT THE CURSE ITALY SUFFERS TO DAY (IN PARTICULAR VIOLENCE, TERRORISM, INTOLERANCE) IS MAINLY DUE TO THE INDIFFERENCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, AND TO THE REFUSAL OF THE MORAL PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY. THE GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DRAMATIC SITUATION IS TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THOSE MARXIST FORCES WHICH, ESPECIALLY DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS, HAVE TRIED IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO ESTABLISH THEIR SUPREMACY OVER ITALIAN SOCIETY, PLAYING A ROLE WHICH CAUSED THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOCIAL ORDER WHICH NOT EVEN THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTROL. THESE FORCES, IN-FACT, DOMINATED, USED, AND DISRUPTED THE SCHOOL SYSTEM THE UNIVERSITY, THE WORKERS' LIFE, THE TV, THE RADIO, THE PRESS, THE MOVIE INDUSTRY, THE BOOK INDUSTRY. THEY EVEN DOMINATED THE VERY FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTION OF THE STATE, SUCH AS LARGE SECTORS OF THE COURTS. IN PARTICULAR, THEY HAVE DOMINATED THE YOUNG BY EXPLOITING THEIR ENERGIES.

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2. BENELLI ALSO STATED THAT THE SAME DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE BLAMED ON THE CATHOLICS WHO, SCARED AND ASHAMED OF THEIR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY, HAVE WEAKENED THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY.

3. HOWEVER, THE CARDINAL SAID THAT THERE ARE SIGNS OF REAWAKENING IN THE CATHOLIC WORLD, AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF "COMUNIONE

E LIBERAZIONE" ARE AN EXAMPLE OF A NEW AND MORE CORAGEOUS ZEAL
IN INCREASING THE CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY.

4. SPEACH WAS NOT REPORTED BY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER L'UNITA',
NOR BY COMMUNIST CONTROLLED PAESE SERA.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS THE STRONGEST PUBLIC ATTACK YET ON "MAR-
XISM" BY THIS RECENTLY APPOINTED AND POLITICALLY ACTIVE CARDI
NAL. GORDON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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